

Maidenhead

5 Jan 1866

My dear Sir

I do not see how  
I can furnish you with any  
paper for this next No of the  
Gent. Mag. but for the 3<sup>d</sup> No  
of your new Series I may - life  
and health permitting

I had collected a large  
mass of authentic materials  
for a life of Robert Earl of  
Essex (burheaded by 2. Eliz) when  
out came a very bad blundering  
book by a Capt. Devocaux. This  
was in 1853 - It used some of my

materials, sufficiently to surpass  
precede any undertaking, but  
at the same time nearly all  
the book ~~given~~ was incorrect  
and careless to an excess.

What I propose to do for  
you is to supply the many  
deficiencies of Capt. Devereux,  
to correct his errors, and to  
add many new letters and  
documents - some of them of  
importance & interest. What-  
ever I do shall be in a gentle-  
manlike style & spirit; & before  
I do anything I want to know  
if it be the sort of matter that  
will be useful to you?

It would fill three or  
four pages for, perhaps, half  
a dozen numbers to come.

Just write me a line  
and I will set about it,

I have made up my  
mind never to write another  
line anonymously, as I have  
got into so many a scrape  
by false ascription.

As for a notice in the  
Athenaeum I know very little  
more of the Proprietor & Editor  
than you do, and I do not  
like to ask a favour at the  
hands of either.

Yours very sincerely

J. Payne Collier

Edw. Walford Esq.



